

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1480

To increase the overall economy and efficiency of Government operations and enable more efficient use of Federal funding, by coordinating Federal financial assistance programs and promoting local flexibility.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 1997

Mr. HOYER (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. WEYGAND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

A BILL

To increase the overall economy and efficiency of Government operations and enable more efficient use of Federal funding, by coordinating Federal financial assistance programs and promoting local flexibility.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Services Im-
5 provement Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) historically, Federal programs have ad-
2 dressed the Nation’s problems by providing categor-
3 ical financial assistance with detailed requirements
4 relating to the use of funds;

5 (2) while the assistance described in paragraph
6 (1) has been directed at critical problems, some pro-
7 gram requirements may inadvertently impede the ef-
8 fective delivery of services, and the Federal govern-
9 ment should exercise leadership in eliminating these
10 impediments;

11 (3) the Nation’s State, local, and tribal govern-
12 ments and private, nonprofit organizations are deal-
13 ing with increasingly complex problems that require
14 the coordinated delivery of many kinds of services;

15 (4) the Nation’s communities are diverse, and
16 different needs are present in different communities;
17 and

18 (5) it is more important than ever for the Fed-
19 eral Government to—

20 (A) review, coordinate, and rationalize
21 rules, regulations and policies governing the
22 range of Federal financial assistance programs;

23 (B) reduce the barriers between programs
24 that impede State, local, and tribal govern-

1 ments’ ability to deliver services in a coordi-
2 nated and effective manner; and

3 (C) promote more effective and efficient
4 local delivery of services.

5 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

6 The purposes of this Act are to—

7 (1) remove Federal impediments to coordination
8 of service delivery;

9 (2) enable more efficient use of Federal, State,
10 and local resources through program coordination
11 and reduction of regulation;

12 (3) facilitate cooperation among and coordina-
13 tion of programs operated by State, local, and tribal
14 governments and private, nonprofit organizations;
15 and

16 (4) place less emphasis in Federal service pro-
17 grams on measuring resources and procedures and
18 more emphasis on accountability for achieving policy
19 goals.

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 For purposes of this Act—

22 (1) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
23 **PROGRAM.**—The term “eligible Federal financial as-
24 sistance program”—

1 (A) means a Federal program under which
2 financial assistance is available, directly or indi-
3 rectly, to a State, local, or tribal government or
4 a qualified organization to carry out a specified
5 program;

6 (B) does not include a Federal program
7 under which financial assistance is provided by
8 the Federal Government directly to a bene-
9 ficiary of that financial assistance, or to a State
10 to provide financial or food voucher assistance
11 directly to a beneficiary (but may include ad-
12 ministrative costs for such a program if admin-
13 istrative funding levels are set separately from
14 benefit funding by law or regulation);

15 (C) includes the services portion of a pro-
16 gram that provides both direct cash payments
17 and services; and

18 (D) does not include a direct spending pro-
19 gram (as defined under the Budget Enforce-
20 ment Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)).

21 (2) ELIGIBLE STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL GOV-
22 ERNMENT.—The term “eligible State, local, or tribal
23 government” means a State, local, or tribal govern-
24 ment that is eligible to receive financial assistance

1 under one or more eligible Federal financial assist-
2 ance programs;

3 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local
4 government” means—

5 (A) a subdivision of a State that is a unit
6 of general local government (as defined under
7 section 6501 of title 31, United States Code);

8 (B) any combination of political subdivi-
9 sions described in subparagraph (A) recognized
10 by the Council; and

11 (C) local education agencies (as defined
12 under section 8801(18) of title 20, United
13 States Code);

14 (4) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—The term
15 “qualified organization” means a private, nonprofit
16 organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
17 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from
18 taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Reve-
19 nue Code of 1986;

20 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
21 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
22 American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

23 (6) QUALIFIED CONSORTIUM.—The term
24 “qualified consortium” means a group that—

1 (A) is composed of any combination of
2 qualified organizations, State agencies, or local
3 agencies that receive federally appropriated
4 funds, and

5 (B) includes representatives from not less
6 than three organizations providing services in
7 not less than three of the following areas:

8 (i) Education.

9 (ii) Head Start.

10 (iii) Child care.

11 (iv) Family support and preservation.

12 (v) Maternal and child health.

13 (vi) Job training.

14 (vii) Housing.

15 (viii) Nutrition.

16 (ix) Juvenile justice.

17 (x) Drug abuse prevention and treat-
18 ment; and

19 (7) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “tribal
20 government” means the governing entity of an In-
21 dian tribe as defined in the Federally Recognized In-
22 dian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a), and
23 any amendments to such Act.

1 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL COORDINATION**
2 **COUNCIL.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION AND MEMBERSHIP.—The Presi-
4 dent shall designate a Federal Coordination Council, in
5 this Act referred to as “Council”, composed of the follow-
6 ing:

7 (1) The Attorney General.

8 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture.

9 (3) The Secretary of Labor.

10 (4) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
11 ices.

12 (5) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
13 opment.

14 (6) The Secretary of Education.

15 (7) The Director of National Drug Control Pol-
16 icy.

17 (8) The Director of the Office of Management
18 and Budget.

19 (9) Any additional members appointed at the
20 discretion of the President.

21 (b) CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate a
22 Chair of the Council from among members of the Council.

23 (c) DUTIES.—The Council shall perform the following
24 functions:

25 (1) Review regulations governing eligible Fed-
26 eral financial assistance programs in the areas listed

1 in section 4(1)(A) and identify more efficient oper-
2 ation and coordination of such programs.

3 (2) Coordinate and assist Federal agencies in
4 eliminating, revising, and coordinating regulations,
5 including regulations with respect to the blending of
6 funds.

7 (3) Coordinate and assist Federal agencies in
8 creating an application to be used to apply for as-
9 sistance from eligible Federal financial assistance
10 programs in the areas listed in section 4(1)(A).

11 (4) Coordinate and assist Federal agencies in
12 creating a release form to be used by a client to au-
13 thorize or prohibit service providers, including
14 schools, from sharing information across eligible
15 Federal financial assistance programs.

16 (5) Coordinate and assist agencies in creating a
17 system wherein an organization or consortium of or-
18 ganizations may use one proposal to apply for fund-
19 ing from multiple eligible Federal financial assist-
20 ance programs.

21 (6) Evaluate current performance standards
22 and evaluation criteria for eligible Federal financial
23 assistance programs, and make specific rec-
24 ommendations to Federal agencies regarding how to
25 revise such standards and criteria in order to estab-

lish specific and measurable performance and outcome measures by which program success may be judged and future funding decisions made.

(7) Ensure that Federal grants program criteria award priority funding to qualified consortia.

(8) Establish interagency teams comprised of staff from the agencies that administer the covered federal financial assistance programs to provide training and technical assistance to assist program coordination.

(9) Establish interagency teams to provide outcome-based, cross-program evaluation of coordinated programs.

(10) Identify not less than ten qualified consortia to participate in a demonstration program to determine the benefits of the following accountability procedures:

(A) The qualified consortium shall select a set of specific and measurable program goals.

(B) The qualified consortium shall develop a flexibility and coordination plan to describe—

(i) how the consortium will attain these goals;

(ii) how performance will be measured; and

1 (iii) how the consortium will identify
2 subgroups within the community, and col-
3 lect and maintain data to measure the im-
4 pact of the plan on individuals, the sub-
5 groups, and the community.

6 (d) REPORTS.—

7 (1) Not later than one year after the designa-
8 tion of the Council, the Council shall submit to the
9 Congress a report detailing any legislative encum-
10 brances preventing the Council from carrying out its
11 duties.

12 (2) Not later than three years after the des-
13 ignation of the Council, the Council shall submit to
14 the Congress a report detailing any regulations im-
15 plemented as a result of findings of the Council.

16 **SEC. 6. INCENTIVES TO FORM CONSORTIA.**

17 (a) EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwith-
18 standing any other provision of law, members of a quali-
19 fied consortium shall be exempted, without any waiver ap-
20 plication or approval, but subject to prior notification to
21 the agency administering the affected Federal assistance
22 programs, from meeting requirements or providing serv-
23 ices which are met or performed by another member of
24 the consortium, so long as the standards of the require-

1 ment or service are met by that other member of the con-
2 sortium.

3 (b) RETENTION OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—Any funds
4 which each individual program saves from the program co-
5 ordination described in subsection (a) may be retained by
6 the consortium in a flexible account which shall be admin-
7 istered in accordance with a memorandum of understand-
8 ing agreed to by each member of the consortium. Flexible
9 account funds may be used to expand, improve, or other-
10 wise augment services provided by the consortium, consist-
11 ent with the intent of Federal programs managed by con-
12 sortium members, including data systems development
13 and joint professional development with staff from other
14 consortium members.

15 (c) PERMISSION TO SET ASIDE PERCENTAGE OF
16 FUNDS.—Any agency or organization that is a member
17 of a consortium may at its discretion set aside a maximum
18 of 10 percent of its Federal funds in the flexible account
19 described in subsection (b).

20 (d) AUDIT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
21 PROGRAMS.—The Federal agencies with jurisdiction over
22 Federal financial assistance programs included in a con-
23 sortium may designate a cognizant agency to audit flexible
24 fund expenditures.

1 (f) ENFORCEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL
2 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—The Federal agen-
3 cies with jurisdiction over Federal financial assistance pro-
4 grams included in a consortium may designate a cognizant
5 agency to enforce the authorization requirements of Fed-
6 eral assistance programs.

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